Wastage of Public Funds on Roads in the Capital

1544. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the corruption; nepotism and waste of public funds on roads in the capital ;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the major roads under construction, heavy embankments, footpaths etc. constructed so far are to be destroyed and shifted within a few months; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a High Powered Committee for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Constitutionally (as per the National Highways Act, 1956), this Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the country and rendering technical advice to the Union Territories without legislature. All other roads are essentially the responsibility of the respective State Govts/Union Territories. Road construction activities in the Capital are mainly handled by Public Works Department Delhi Administration, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Committee, and Delhi Cantonment Board. These agencies have intimated that cases of corruption, nepotism and wastage of public funds on roads have not been brought to their notice. They have further stated that the construction work is done as per the approved specifications. The major roads under construction, heavy embankments, footpaths etc. constructed so far, are not likely to be destroyed and shifted in the near future. Demolition and shifting of the footpaths etc. does take place due to heavy rains and when necessitated by the provision of utility services like telephone, electric cables etc.

(c) No, Sir.

Auto Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

1545. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of sub-divisional headquarters in the State of Orissa which has not got the facility of Auto Telephone Exchange so far ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to convert any Manual Exchange into an Auto Exchange in the current financial year ;

(c) whether it is a fact that new equipments meant for Jagatsingpur Auto Exchange has been lying idle for last one year at Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANE SHWAR MISHRA) : (a) There are 10 sub-divisional headquarters in the State of Orissa which do not have Auto Telephone Exchange facility.

(b) Yes Sir, but the implementation is subject to availability of equipment in time.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Visit by foreign war-ships carrying nuclear weapons on board to Indian Ports

1546. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of war-ships of other countries with nuclear weapons on board which visited Indian Ports till March, 1989 and under what circumstances they were allowed ;

(b) whether there is any proposal to allow only certified foreign war-ships without nuclear weapons on board to visit India ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 51 foreign naval ships visited Indian ports from 1 January, 1988 to 31 March, 1989. Government are not aware of any foreign naval ships with nuclear weapons on board having visited any Indian port during this period.

(b) and (c) Government of India's policy of not permitting calls by foreign naval ships carrying nuclear weapons is well known and has been reiterated on many occasions.

Installation of Long Distance Public Telephones in every village in the Country

1547. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to install long distance public telephones in every Panchayat village in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) the number of such telephones and the amount earmarked for Madras circle during the current and the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) 1,87,393 Panchayat Villages are proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the 8th Five Year Plan and the remaining villages in the 9th Plan.

(c) 600 Nos. pf public telephones are planned to be opened in Tamilnadu Circle during the current financial year. Funds for this purpose are generally met from the lumpsum grant placed at the disposal of the Circle for the current year. Fixation of physical target and allotment of funds is done in the beginning of each year depending upon the availability of equipment.

Expenditure on Tamil Refugees in Orissa

1548. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate expenditure being incurred per day by the State Government of Orissa on the rehabilitation of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees at Malkangiri Camp in Koraput District, Orissa; and

(b) the Central assistance being extended to Orissa on that account per day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) The entire expenditure being incurred on the relief camps for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees at Malkangiri in Koraput District, Orissa is being borne by the Government of India. The approximate expenditure being incurred per day on providing relief facilities amounts to Rs. 27,000/-.

(b) So far, Rs. 20 lakhs has been given to the Government of